

## House Resolution 112 - Introduced

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY JONES, DOLECHECK, PETTENGILL, WORTHAN, WINCKLER,  
UPMEYER, HAGENOW, OURTH, STAED, McCONKEY, STECKMAN,  
FRY, FISHER, BERGAN, HEATON, KRESSIG, GASKILL,  
NUNN, GASSMAN, MOORE, NIELSEN, McKEAN, and  
GUSTAFSON

1 A Resolution celebrating and recognizing the many  
2 accomplishments of Dr. Peggy Whitson.

3 WHEREAS, Peggy Annette Whitson, who was born in  
4 Mount Ayr, Iowa, and grew up on a family farm near  
5 Beaconsfield, was initially inspired to be a space  
6 explorer at the age of nine watching Neil Armstrong and  
7 Buzz Aldrin take their first steps on the moon; and

8 WHEREAS, following high school, Dr. Whitson designed  
9 her education goals to be consistent with a career  
10 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
11 (NASA), by receiving her bachelor of science degree in  
12 biology and chemistry from Iowa Wesleyan College in  
13 1981, and by receiving her doctorate in biochemistry  
14 from Rice University in 1985; and

15 WHEREAS, after persistently applying for the  
16 astronaut program five times over the course of  
17 10 years, Dr. Whitson was selected as an astronaut  
18 candidate in 1996; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Whitson first flew into space on June  
20 5, 2002, as a flight engineer for Expedition 5, and  
21 subsequently was a member of the Expedition 16 crew  
22 that launched on October 10, 2007; and

23 WHEREAS, when Dr. Whitson's most recent mission  
24 as a member of Expedition 50/51/52 ended in September

1 2017, she had spent over 289 days in orbit, and had  
2 cumulatively spent over 665 days during her three  
3 missions aboard the International Space Station,  
4 more time living and working in space than any  
5 other American or any woman worldwide, earning her  
6 the nickname "Space Ninja" and the Twitter handle  
7 "@AstroPeggy"; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Whitson has broken many barriers, set  
9 many other records, earned accolades too numerous to  
10 mention, and been a role model, encouraging audiences,  
11 like the girls and young women from the Lower East Side  
12 Girls Club and other nonprofit groups in attendance  
13 when she was named one of Glamour's Women of the Year  
14 in 2017, to find their passion and achieve their goals;  
15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
17 the House of Representatives congratulates Dr. Peggy  
18 Whitson on her remarkable lifetime of accomplishments;  
19 commends Dr. Whitson for her outstanding contributions  
20 to the advancement of international cooperation and  
21 for exemplifying that successful endeavors require the  
22 teamwork of those with diverse skills and backgrounds  
23 as well as relationships built on mutual trust and  
24 respect, whether on the International Space Station  
25 or on Earth; and thanks Dr. Whitson for steadfastly  
26 promoting interest in STEM and inspiring both girls,  
27 and boys, no matter the size of their hometown, to  
28 dream big, work hard, and reach for the (moon and)  
29 stars.